

## LITERARY NOTES.

An exhaustive index of Pepys's Diary will be published in London at the end of the month.

The Rev. Dr. John Hall, Albert Rhodes and A. R. Spofford are among the writers for the coming number of *The International Review*.

An English gentleman after two months' absence in Sweden and Finland has returned to London with photographs of 265 Runic staves, besides other writings on wood, bone and horn.

It is expected that the manuscript for the new edition of "Poole's Index to Periodical Literature," will be ready at the end of another year. The completed work will contain matter equivalent to one volume of Alibou's "Dictionary of Authors." The old edition brings the record down only to 1852.

A Italian has written an article which he calls "The Solitude of Byron," and in it he contrasts Byron's conception of solitude with Cicero's and Petrarch's on the one hand and Shelley's on the other. His conclusion is that Cicero and Petrarch sought for repose and freedom from the cares of life, while the solitude of Shelley was dolorous, and that of Byron a continuous struggle to escape from the disastrous consequences to his soul's life which came from contact with society.

Ernest Daudet, brother of Alphonse, sent a copy of his novel "La Marquise de Sardou" to *The Athéneum* (London), which in reviewing it said he ought to put at the head of his book, not a list of his own works, but a list of his brother's, whose popularity has made his reputation. To this criticism he replies, in a card which *The Athéneum* prints, that in the year 1874, when his brother gained his present reputation by the publication of his "Promenades et Rêveries d'Alphonse," he (Ernest) already occupied with his brother an honorable rank in the republic of letters.

A thousand volumes, in more than a dozen languages, on the game chess were collected by the late George Allen, professor of Greek in the University of Pennsylvania, and are to be sold. There are in the collection 250 autograph letters from authorities on the game, and fifty engravings and photographs, besides copies of Tarsia, Gluttony, Solitaire, Salvo, Loto, and many other valuable works; Pindar being represented by forty-six copies, few of which are duplicates; and of Greece's treatise (fourteen editions are included, among them the English version of 1609) there is a French one of 1669. An elaborate catalogue has been published.

The fifth and last edition of the "Manuel du Libraire" of M. J. C. Brunet, published in Paris in 1860-'65, was, says *The Academy*, "a monument of bibliographical labor and research such as the world has never seen before—a work of inestimable value to all librarians, booksellers, book buyers, and bibliophiles generally." During his own lifetime M. Brunet made notes of the imperfections and omissions contained in his work, with a view either to a new edition or a supplement. But he died in 1867, and since then his notes have unaccountably been lost. Upon the same model as the original work is a new edition, edited by Jules Deshayes and Georges Brunet, who has, however, not been published in Paris by Fratellini.

Dumas is engaged upon a comedy which has for its subject the doctrine of Darwinism. To a correspondent not long ago he said: "You ask me how I write? Suppose it is a comedy. When I have thought it out I take twenty leaves of paper for each act ex-cept the last; I then sit down to work. When I draw near the twentieth leaf I know that it is time to shorten the last act to five or six leaves. It ought to be shorter than the others." He is orderly and methodical in all his work. Years ago his father said he would never become a great author, because he was "too orderly." "He has twelve pairs of boots," said the father, "and they stand side by side in his bedroom as straight as if they were being drilled." He told the correspondent that he always dusted his own room, and brushed his own clothes, as relaxations after his mental labor. His library is complete, his study is well lighted, and contains a good collection of French and German literature, and a very few others. Before all others, says the correspondent, stands the Bible, which is the book that "Dumas studies the deepest and reads with the greatest pleasure."

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